REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 4, 7 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 17 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 6-10 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Thorland et al. (US 6,457,071) (hereinafter "Thorland").

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorland.

Thorland discloses a system and method for determining connection accuracy at an interface. The system and method of Thorland includes a host computer 100, a peripheral device 200, and a connection cable 201. Thorland, 5:12-5:15.

In Thorland, the inputs to the peripheral device attached to the conductive lines leading to the connector are all or substantially all bidirectional. During power-up of the system, each line is electrically tri-stated, meaning that the lines are in a high impedance state and neither sink nor source power to any device. When the peripheral is powered up for the first time, these lines, or a portion of the lines, would go into "input-only" mode and present a high impedance connection to the communications bus. Presenting a high impedance connection to the bus prevents any adverse effect on the bus, such as corruption of data thereon. Thorland, 7:21-7:32.

Further in Thorland, the peripheral device could transmit the identification information along one or more selected wires, and the host computer would perform detection so as to locate the expected signal among the wires coming into the host computer side of the connection which may be a motherboard. Thorland, 7:49-7:54.

According to the method of Thorland, in an uncommunicative condition, the host, after a certain period of time, will conclude that the connector is either entirely absent, or connected far from its proper position and can display a message to the user indicating this finding. The peripheral device, being unable to locate an identifying feature on any incoming line may also communicate the lack of connection directly to the user. Such communication can comprise the use of "blink codes" which cause an LED or other light on the peripheral to turn on and off a

fixed number of times, or to turn on a dedicated hazard light specifically indicating a lack of connection to the host. Thorland, 9:18-9:29.

Claims 1, 4 and 5

Amended claim 1 recites: "...the controller clears the set flag when the command is received from the host for the predetermined period of time." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 4 of the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Thorland 7:33-7:39 to show this feature of claim 1. This section of Thorland discloses: "[o]nce the peripheral device has determined the location of the identifying signal sent by the host, it is desired to have the peripheral device communicate certain information to the host. It is now necessary to switch some of the pins or wires which are part of the peripheral's connection to the host to an "output" status to enable transmission of data to the host." It is respectfully submitted that this section, or any other, of Thorland does not discuss that host must receive a signal for a predetermined amount of time before clearing the flag. By contrast, it appears in Thorland that as soon as the peripheral device identifies the signal, the output status is indicated. By contrast, claim 1 recites that the controller only clears the set flag when the command is received for a predetermined period of time. As this technical feature of claim 1 is not discussed in Thorland, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Thorland.

Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claim 5 depends on claim 1 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 6-10 and 17

Amended claim 6 recites: "...wherein in commanding the timer to increase the time counter, if the command is received from the host within the predetermined period of time, the set flag is cleared." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 7. In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Thorland 7:33-7:39 to show this feature of claim 6. This section of Thorland discloses: "[o]nce the peripheral device has determined the location of the identifying signal sent by the host, it is desired to have the peripheral device communicate certain information to the host. It is now necessary to switch some of the pins or wires which are part of the peripheral's connection to the host to an "output" status to enable transmission of data to the host." It is respectfully submitted that this section, or any other, of Thorland does not

discuss that host must receive a signal for a predetermined amount of time before clearing the flag. By contrast, it appears in Thorland that as soon as the peripheral device identifies the signal, the output status is indicated. By contrast, claim 6 recites that the controller only clears the set flag when the command is received in a predetermined period of time. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Thorland does not anticipate claim 6.

Claims 7 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 8, 10 and 17 depend on claim 6 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: April 3, 2007

By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Seventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501